

fading since his retirement from the National Guard in 1999. Gerry has consistently supported his fellow service members by storing the possessions of deploying soldiers, repairing and donating vehicles to veterans unable to afford their own, or helping place transitioning soldiers in civilian jobs, sometimes at his own business. Since 9/11, Gerry has been a regular, consistent attendee at "Send Off" and "Welcome Home" events at the Hartford Armory for Connecticut National Guard units deployed to the Middle East. In August of 2010, Gerry also completed the grueling "Legacy Run to Reno", a fundraiser to benefit military children who lost a parent in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Gerry is an invaluable asset to eastern Connecticut's veteran community, and a shining example of every honorable quality we see in our service members. Next week, he will be inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame—the latest in a long list of honors and awards for which he is more than deserving.

CONGRATULATING EHCMA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA) Workforce Development Committee for being awarded the Visionary Award from the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region Board of Directors.

This award honors individuals and organizations whose work on key regional issues has expanded economic and social opportunity in our community. The Workforce Development Committee has raised \$100,000 in scholarship funds for Lee College and San Jacinto College. These scholarships will help train tomorrow's petrochemical and manufacturing leaders. Strong investment in the future of these industries creates opportunity and prosperity that will benefit the entire American economy in the long run.

I thank the Workforce Development Committee for their investment in our community that supports future opportunities for so many businesses and families. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to the EHCMA Workforce Development Committee for receiving the Economic Alliance's Visionary Award.

CONGRATULATING JESSICA RIVKA CHERRY AND DANIEL JOSEPH CHAVIN ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR WEDDING

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, please join me in recognizing Miss Jessica Rivka Cherry and Mr. Daniel Joseph Chavin, as they celebrate their dedication to each other and to their future together.

Jessica and Daniel celebrated their commitment to each other on Sunday, November 16, 2014, in the greatest city in America, my hometown, Chicago, IL.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that both families share in the happiness of this union. Their commitment to each other is one to be celebrated and commended and one in which I offer my congratulations and wish them the best as they begin their new life together.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARTHUR J. HILL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend Arthur J. Hill, who passed away on November 4, 2014 at the age of 99. Arthur was a successful businessman, war hero, and community volunteer who made his community and country a better place through his dedication to his service.

Arthur was born in Coos Bay, Oregon where he attended local schools, and then continued on to study engineering at the University of Oregon. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, at the age of 27 he volunteered for the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 146th Engineers Battalion as the Headquarters Company Commander, which is a position that he kept until the end of the Second World War when he retired with the rank of Captain.

During his campaign in World War II, Arthur worked tirelessly for the U.S. Army. Arthur's battalion built and operated an assault training center consisting of exact duplications of German fortifications, which was replicated from secret aerial reconnaissance photos of the Normandy landing beaches. He also participated in four additional European Campaigns in Northern France, Ardennes and Alsace, the Rhineland, and Central Europe.

In recognition of his efforts in training 65 civil engineers to assist in the reconstruction of the town of Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, the Czech Government awarded Arthur the Czech Military Medal. He was also awarded the Czech Presidential Medal on the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia, and was chosen as the recipient of the first annual "Hero of the Valley Award," which is given to a distinguished military veteran in the San Joaquin Valley.

Upon returning home from serving our country, Art met and married his wife, Betty Jane "BJ"; the couple enjoyed over 50 years of happy marriage until she passed away in 1998. After the war, Arthur went on to work in the oil industry until 1980, when he retired as president of Hill Oil Company. He then worked at the Veterans Memorial Museum from 1992 until 2011 where he served as Director for ten years. The Veterans Memorial Museum is considered by many to be one of the finest military museums in the country. Art was also a member of the Fresno Rotary Club for over 50 years and was Commander of the American Legion in Fresno.

Arthur loved to spend time with veterans, and cared for them so much that in 2010, he established the "Veterans of the Central Valley Fund" at the Fresno Regional Foundation.

This fund supports the Veterans Memorial Museum and other projects benefitting veterans. Apart from serving the community, Arthur and his wife Betty Jane loved to spend their time traveling the world. Arthur is survived by his son Brad and his wife Audrey, and their daughter Carly and her husband Keith Berry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SHAISTA MAHMOOD

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a great Virginian, an 8th District constituent and my dear friend, Shaista Mahmood.

It's been decades since Shaista first came to our country from Pakistan with her new husband Rafat (Ray), her commitment to her adopted home is matched by none. All throughout Northern Virginia, life is improving thanks to the work of the Mahmoods. From their humble beginnings starting at the age of 23 with their first business in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, they've been important members of the small business community in the 8th District.

But it has been Shaista's charitable work for causes around the world that is most profound. In fact, the organizations to which she has devoted her time are too numerous to list. Whether it's supporting children recovering from life in war-torn regions of our globe at Seeds of Peace or securing positive change for women as worldwide economic drivers at Vital Voices, Shaista's commitment to making a difference in the lives of women and children is unmatched.

I've been honored to share this commitment to so many of these causes, but none more so than her devotion to improving women's and children's rights around the globe. Hers has been a silent hand at the wheel driving forces for change all around the globe, demanding equal rights for the many who are treated unjustly as a matter of course and tradition every day.

These are the very issues that have inspired so many of us to devote decades of our life to public service. But while we are welcomed and honored in DC and throughout the country as public servants, Shaista asks for no such recognition. She is proud to let her good work stand as testament alone to the countless hours of commitment she has spent advancing these global issues.

Since we first met years ago, thanks in small part to her delicious Pakistani cooking, the roots she has planted in Northern Virginia are deep and wide. Along with Ray, Shaista has opened her home to countless organizations, including elected officials at every level from across the political spectrum. We are all fortunate to call Shaista our friend, and for many, our inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me today in celebrating Shaista's commitment to making this world a better place all within it. I'm honored to call her a constituent and even more honored to call her a friend.